



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office

2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834

Sacramento, California 95825

www.ca.blm.gov



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EMS TRANSMISSION: 01/09/01
Instruction Memorandum No. CA-2001-017
Expires 09/30/02

To: CDD District Manager/California Field Managers
All California Law Enforcement Personnel

From: State Director

Subject: Law Enforcement Collar Insignia Policy

For a two-year pilot period, I have authorized the wearing of collar insignia for law enforcement officers as part of their official BLM uniform. This decision was based on sound reasoning submitted by field personnel.

The Bureau's law enforcement jurisdiction extends throughout the entire state with mission responsibilities in all of California's wild, rural and in some cases, urbanized regions. In most of our field offices, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) have been effected, which authorize and promote close cooperation with local law enforcement agencies. Many of these MOU's mandate operating jointly with agencies that are very large and have an established command structure characterized by visible rank insignia. This is especially true in southern California and other areas where there is a major influx of population.

As our law enforcement program continues to mature and adjust to the needs dictated by the changing demographics of public land users, we are finding our law enforcement officers are working closer than ever before with other agencies. As urban areas continue to expand at a rapid rate, the need for establishing partnerships with other jurisdictions in order to better serve our mutual constituents is likewise greater than it has been in the past.

I feel very strongly that since California was the birthplace of the Ranger program and California is where most of the critical issues are generated, California should remain the leader in innovation of the program. As our law enforcement roll continues to evolve and our program matures, especially here in California, we must continue to be forward-looking in helping to shape the program into what future needs will demand.

This policy goes into effect on January 8, 2001, and applies to all indicated in the policy statement

which is attached. Please ensure that it is implemented uniformly throughout the state. If you have questions concerning this policy or the appropriate insignia, please contact Special Agent-in-Charge, Roger Bruckner, at 916-978-4450.

Signed
Mike Pool
State Director

Authenticated
Liza Raymundo
Records Management

Attachments (2)

- 1 - Collar Brass Insignia Policy Statement (2 pp)
- 2 - Wearing of Collar Brass (2pp)

POLICY STATEMENT
COLLAR BRASS INSIGNIA
FOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

I. PURPOSE.

This policy sets forth guidelines for the wearing of collar brass insignia for BLM law enforcement officers in the State of California. All other policies previously issued on this subject by this office are superseded.

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a uniform means of identifying command and rank structure that is common to all law enforcement agencies within California. This policy will provide for a visual and rapid means of recognizing command or supervisory officers, and is intended to promote quick identification and communication with key management personnel by members of the public and officials from other agencies.

The law enforcement program in California is unique in the Bureau of Land Management in that there are over 80 law enforcement positions, with that number expected to increase. California officers have been called upon to interface and conduct joint operations with large law enforcement agencies with traditional methods of identifying supervisory and command personnel. It is important that, as our role as partners continues to increase with these agencies, we establish policies that will continue to build our credibility and enhance our relationship. In the past, confusion has risen with the public and cooperating law enforcement agencies as to who is in charge when confronted with multiple officers in field situations, in meetings, planning sessions, and in training. This is especially true in some of our offices with larger numbers of officers.

II. GUIDELINES FOR WEAR.

A. Collar brass will be worn by Law Enforcement Officers (LEO's) who have the lead and/or oversight, and/or who supervise one or more LEO's. Collar Brass Insignia will be 3/8" in height; and, Shoulder Brass (which will be worn only on the Class A Coat) will be 7/8" in size. The designation for BLM Law Enforcement Officers are approved as follows:

One (1) Vertical Gold Bar

State Staff Ranger
Ranger Program Management

District Ranger
Program Management

Chief Area Ranger
Supervisory/Program Management

Three (3) Gold Chevrons

Supervisory Ranger

Three (3) Gold Letters

Field Training Officer

(Shall be worn above nameplate)

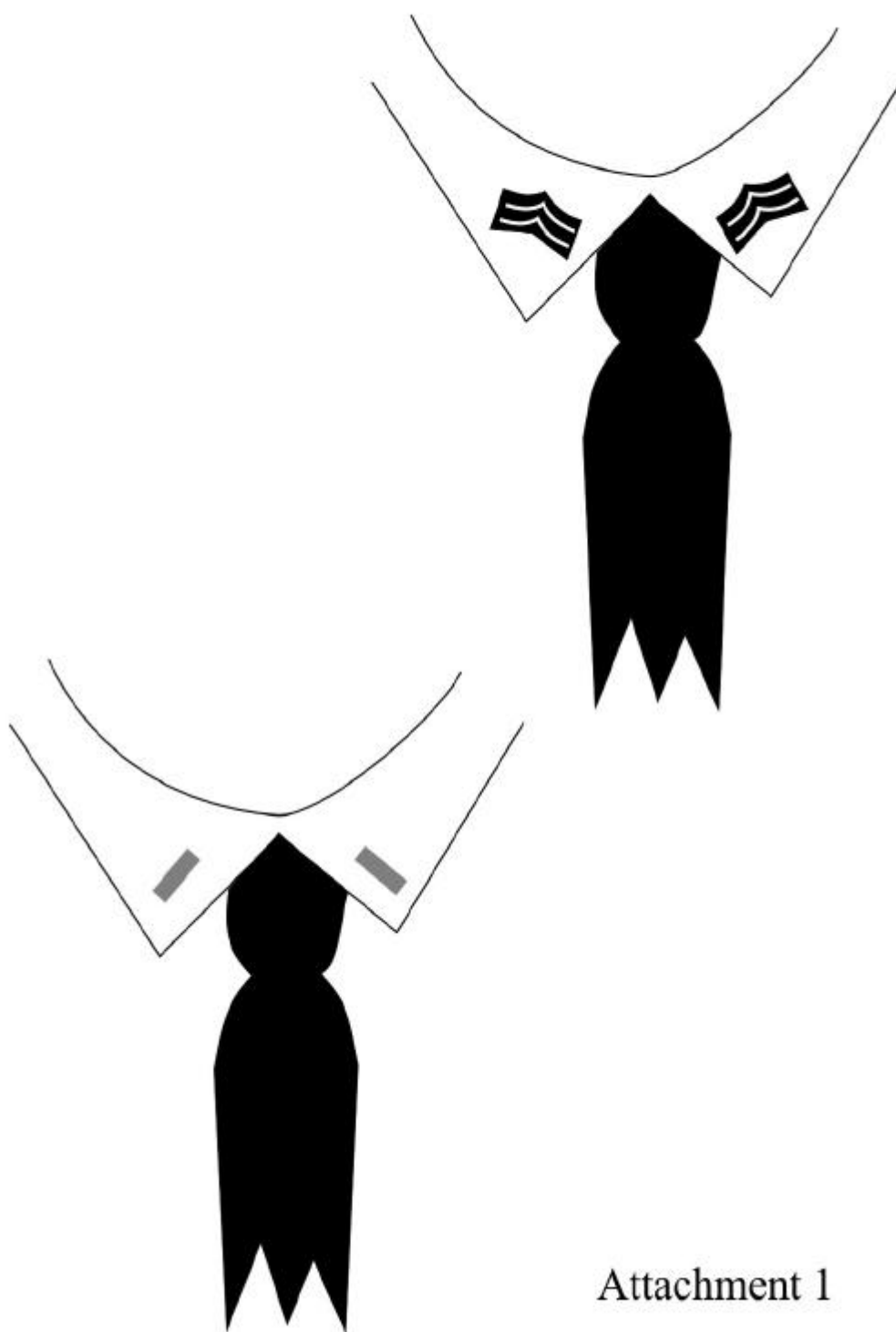
Two (2) Gold Letters

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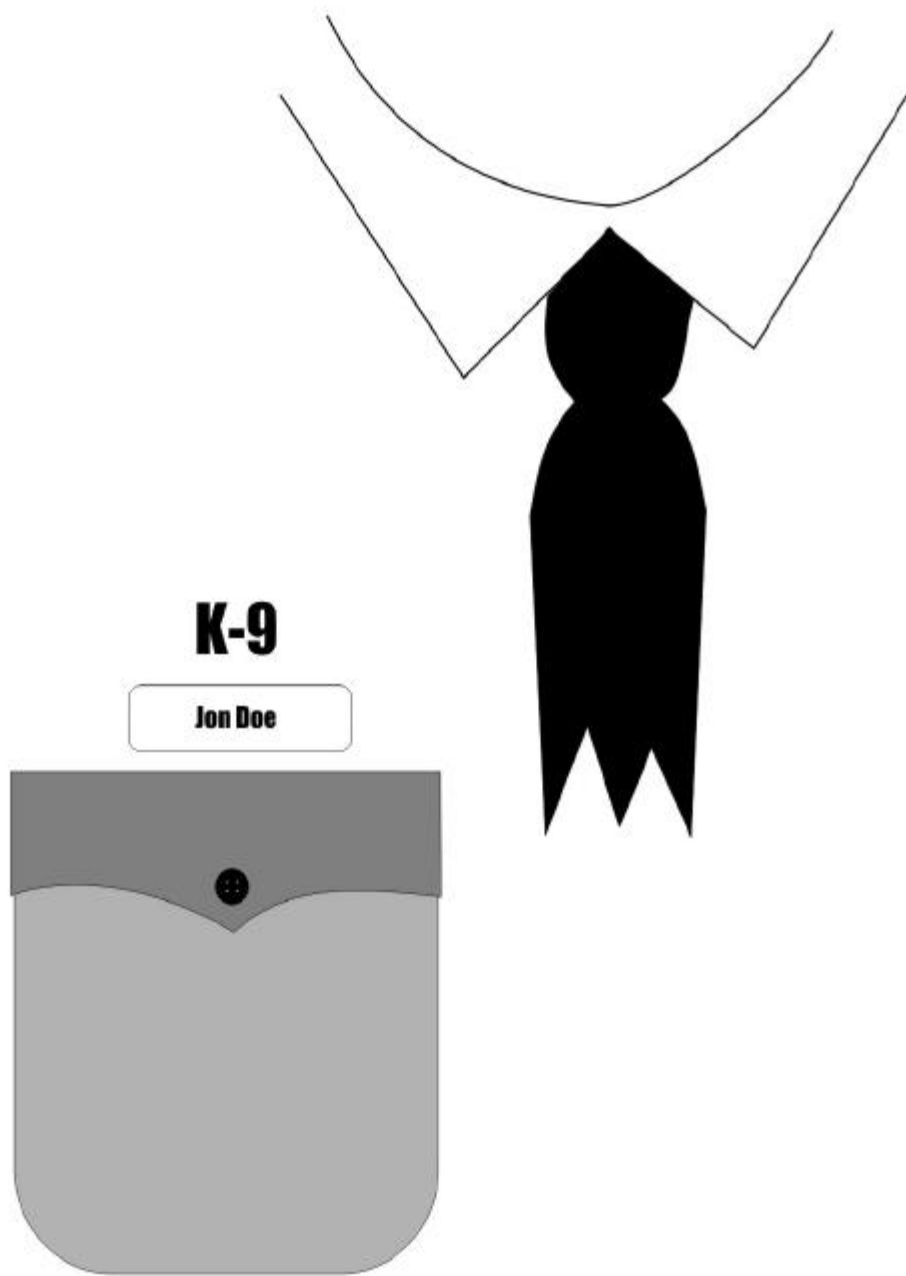
(Shall be worn above nameplate)

B. Exceptions to this may be appropriate where we have intra-agency operations, such as marijuana details, major holiday weekend details at recreation areas, or fire assignments. In some of these cases, we institute an Incident Command (IC) system where we have officers meeting certain qualifying criteria that require them to supervise other supervisory personnel. If wearing the collar insignia on occasions such as the examples given, causes confusion, it would generally be appropriate to remove it for the duration of the detail. For instance, a person who is not a supervisor according to his/her permanent duty position may serve as a security manager at a fire assignment. In a case such as this, the Special-Agent-in-Charge will determine if removing the collar brass for the duration of that temporary assignment may be appropriate.

No other collar brass will be worn by any other law enforcement officers without this policy being amended by the California State Director.



Attachment 1



Attachment 2